

A Guide to Planning Ahead



Preparing yourself in advance for the death of your pet, while emotionally taxing, is a wise and thoughtful thing to do. Certainly none of us likes to think of that day, the day our heart will be broken into a million pieces. Thinking about this ahead of time will give you and your family the opportunity to discuss how you would like to memorialize your beloved pet and to celebrate the life that you all shared together.

There are numerous elements to think about regarding the death of your pet and your final wishes. Take this time to reflect upon what your pet will need in respectful aftercare treatment, as well as the support you will need as a grieving pet parent. Making sure that your beloved pet is treated with the dignity and respect they deserve will be of the utmost importance at this time. Knowing your various options will relieve much of the stress you may have in ensuring what you do is appropriate to not only honor the life of your pet but to ensure that they are receiving the care and treatment in death that was important to you for them in life.

Final Arrangements

The final arrangement I wish to have for my pet's body is:

 Cremation  Burial

If cremation, will you want the ashes returned?

 Yes  No

For cremation, is it important to you to have your pet's body cremated alone in the crematory (a "solo" or "private" cremation) or would a "Partitioned" cremation be acceptable (several pets are placed in the crematory chamber, separated into individual trays or by the use of metal dividers)? With either a Solo/Private or a Partitioned cremation, we employ our Petcare Tracking system through the cremation process. A stainless steel ID disk with a unique number will accompany your pet's body through the course of the services performed. This will ensure the safety, security and authentication of the cremation process and give you peace of mind knowing that your pet's remains were cared for properly.

 Solo/Private cremation  Partitioned cremation

Following cremation, you may wish to scatter your pet's remains in a special location you used to visit together, in your yard, or at a friend's or relative's home. You may also consider placing the remains in a scattering garden or a columbarium. Please ask our staff for information about available locations for this type of memorialization.

If you do not wish to have your pet's remains returned, they will be cremated in a "communal" cremation, with the ashes scattered on a private ranch outside of Colorado Springs. Visitation cannot be accommodated.

If you choose burial, where would you like to place your pet?

 Home  Friend's Home  Local Pet Cemetery

For burial, will you want a casket to protect the pet's body?

Things to consider with this decision:

Will the town/county allow pet burials?

Will you always live in this area or have access to this piece of ground?

Do your religious preferences guide you in one way or another?

Will you want a casket to protect your pet's body?

Please ask our staff for information about available cemeteries in our area.

Service Options

Saying that final goodbye is the first step in grieving. Allowing family and friends to say their goodbyes by offering their personal tributes to a much beloved pet will allow the healing to begin. Encourage those close to your pet to pay tribute by doing what makes them happy. Friends and family may wish to tell a story about the pet, offer flowers, or include a small toy, blanket or treat to accompany their friend.

My family and I will want a Final Good-Bye Time with our pet:

 Yes  No

Some families will take this Final Good-Bye Time to incorporate their important family/religious rituals. Rituals may look like:

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|  Special readings |  The planting of a tree/flower/bush |
|  Rituals you and your pet did to say "I love you" |  Scripture readings |
|  A candle lighting tribute |  A donation drive for a local rescue or non-profit in memory of your pet |
|  Reading of special poems and remembrances |  Playing audio tapes of their meow/bark/chirp |
|  Sharing videos of the pet and your family |  Reading a eulogy to remember your pet's life with your family |

The following rituals are important and will be included in our Final Good-Bye Time together:

Memorialization Options

Making a decision on memorialization products is a personal process. This will be reflective of the life shared with your pet, your life style, your personal style, and those items that are reflective of your pet's personality. It's also important to take into consideration where your memorialization pieces will go in your home, or in your yard, and how you want the item to look, either blending in with your decor or making an individual statement. In addition, if you have a large pet family, consider a memorialization piece where all of the pets can be together.

There are various memorialization products:

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|  Rocks/Garden Flagstones |  Jewelry that would have the pet's own paw print or nose print on it |
|  An urn that is reflective of your decorating style |  An eco-friendly urn for burial in a special location |
|  An urn with paw prints to show your love of animals |  A piece of art done to depict the pet's personality |
|  A personalized urn made to look like the pet |  A frame to hold a cast of your pet's paw print, nose print, and locket of hair |
|  Locket jewelry to hold a bit of the pet's ashes or hair |  Memorial Note Cards |

The desired memorialization items to remember our pet are:

The personalization of your memorial pieces will truly make them as unique as your relationship was with your pet. From an inscription on an urn or jewelry piece to the saying on a rock or marker, your sentimental words will create a true reflection of the love that you have for your special pet. Hearing other friends and family members' stories is certainly a wonderful way to reflectively pay tribute to your pet and get everyone involved in honoring their life. Consider:

When you think about your pet – what makes you smile?

A nickname

A cute saying

Special Dates

A photo

Personal paw print or nose print

A way to show your pet's love of their favorite things- a bone, toys or other special mementos

A Tribute to My Pet's Life

Pet's Name _____

Birth date/Adoption Date - Date of Death _____

Where born/Where adopted _____

Nicknames _____

Pet Parents _____

Siblings – Pet and Human _____

Favorite Toy(s) _____

Favorite Activities _____

Least Favorite Thing _____

Other friends _____

Favorite Place to Sleep _____

Favorite Food _____

Favorite Memories _____

With the choices of memorialization items that have been made, we want the following unique personalization:



For helpful information, visit
www.Homeward-Bound-Pet.com
Homeward Bound Pet Memorial Center & Crematorium
719-636-1036